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Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—"May I know whether the report will be placed on the table of the House?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I will consider the suggestion."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"May I know when the report will be considered and how long it will take for the Government to pass orders?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"The report was received some months ago and the Government are now considering the question. The Government will come to a conclusion in the course of a few days, say, a week, in all probability."

*Classified species in the reserved forests, South Kanara district.*

11-15 a.m. *56 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether any orders have been passed in regard to the reduction in the number of classified species in the reserved forests in South Kanara as recommended by the Chief Conservator?

A.—The Chief Conservator has proposed that the number of species proscribed from cutting should be reduced as an incentive for such panchayats as may be newly formed. But as no new panchayats have since been formed, there has been no occasion to reduce the list.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—"May I know whether Government will consider the desirability of reducing the number of classified species in the reserved forests in the interests of the people living near those reserved forests?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"The recommendation of the Chief Conservator is that if new panchayats are to be formed the number of species should be reduced. He does not consider it necessary to reduce it generally or even in the case of the old panchayats. The Government see no reason to differ from the recommendation of the Chief Conservator."

## Jails

*Diet in the jails from March to October* 1930.

*57 Q.—Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) what is the diet given in each of the jails from March to October 1930 with special reference to boiled or raw rice and buttermilk;

(*b*) whether there is a variation of diet between jail and jail, and if so, what is the reason for such variation;

(*c*) what is the incidence of sickness in various jails in respect of each ailment or disease during the above period;

(*d*) whether there has been an increase of dysentery or scurvy in any of the jails, and if so, what was the reason for such increase;

(*e*) whether any of the prisoners have protested against the kind or quality of food supplied to them; and

(*f*) in how many cases such defects were rectified?

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A.—(a) The hon. Member is referred to the scales of diet appended to rule 347 of the Madras Jail Manual.

(b) No; but 'C' class prisoners in the Alipuram Jail have been allowed as an experimental measure butter-milk in lieu of a portion of the dholl allowed to them.

(c) & (d) The Government have no information.

(e) Yes.

(f) General instructions have been issued to the Inspector-General of Prisons that any variations within the diet scales may be allowed so long as the total cost of diet per prisoner is not exceeded. The question of granting certain specific concessions is under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. Basheer Ahmed Syeed :—"May I know why the Government is substituting dholl by butter-milk, instead of making it an addition to dholl ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—"It is a question of cost."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—"May I know from the hon. the Law Member the amount of dholl each prisoner gets now ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—"I want notice, Sir."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Kahn :—"May I know the proportion of dholl that has been reduced ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—"Half."

Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"May I know how long the Government have been experimenting with butter-milk on the prisoners ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—"The present trial commenced, I believe, one or two months ago. The experiment is with reference to the weight of the prisoners on this diet."

Mr. C. Satyanarayana Choudari :—"May I know whether the hon. the Law Member is aware that butter-milk is one of the commonest items in the diet of an ordinary man ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—"It is a common item in the diet of some persons; it is not a common item in the diet of other persons."

Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"I take it that in the last session of the Legislative Council it was said that they were experimenting with butter-milk. Is the experiment still going on ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—"Yes, Sir."

Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"How long is it likely to go on ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—"It will depend on the opinion of the Inspector-General of Prisons."

Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"Does it take so long to find out the effect of butter-milk on the human system ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—"I am sorry I am not a medical expert. My hon. Friend apparently is."

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Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"May I know from the hon. the Law Member what those concessions are which the Government seem to give to these convicts?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"One is the supply of raw rice to those that are accustomed to it. The second is this identical question of the supply of butter-milk, and the third is the increase in the quantity of salt. On the last, the Government have come to a conclusion, namely, that in the case of C class prisoners the quantity of salt which was till now ¾ oz. ought to be increased to 1 oz."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"Is the Government considering the question of bringing the rate allowed to Indian prisoners to the level of that given to Europeans?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"My hon. Friend must be aware that there is no difference now between the European class and the Indian class of prisoners. There is no racial difference at all in the class of prisoners."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—"May I know if the European prisoners also are each allowed only 2½ annas a day in the jails?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"It depends upon the diet to which they are previously accustomed. In fact 2½ annas has not been fixed."

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Has the question of experimenting with butter-milk on prisoners been considered with reference to other prisoners than those in the Alipuram jail?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"No."

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Will the Government consider the desirability of extending it to others?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"Not till the result of the experiment is known."

Rai Sahib C. KOLANDA REDDI :—"I want to know the result of the experiment made with regard to the introduction of butter-milk in lieu of dholl."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"If my hon. Friend had been listening to my answers to the questions of hon. Friends here, he must have heard me say more than once that the result is yet to be known."

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Have the Government considered that if their idea is to go on with the experiment for some time more some of these prisoners on whom experiments are made may be released in the meantime (laughter)?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I will congratulate them if they are to be released before the result of the experiment is known."